

# TV CANDIDS

by Terrence O'Flaherty

Now that Marilyn Monroe has appeared in the buff once more and seems to be attracting the bees all over again, I have been wondering what television stars can do to fight for equal space in the newspapers.

TV's top show according to the latest edition of Gypsy Madge's Dream Book is "Hazel." If only we could get Shirley Booth to take a bath in the raw and ban everyone from the set except the crew, 150 photographers, Hedda Hopper and a calendar manufacturer, television might crowd out movies as the World's Second Greatest Indoor Sport.

I have no notion of Miss Booth's true proportions because I understand she is padded for her television role. Who knows—maybe underneath her "Hazel" costume there is enough calendar art to keep American small businesses going for a decade.

The next program in popularity is "Wagon Train," and there's really not much you can photograph in this one. Unless, of course, you count Bette Davis when she guest-starred in a role that called upon her many talents, including milking a cow.

Third on the popularity list is "Gunsmoke," and now we're getting someplace. I'll bet Amanda Blake, who plays "Kitty," has a darn sight more appeal for the men of America than Marilyn Monroe. I can envision Miss Blake as attractive and intelligent, both before and after The Main Event, while Miss Monroe would be a crashing bore. Perhaps Amanda is our TV pinup girl. She may be a little mature, but who knows how many rings there are around Miss Monroe's trunk?

Unfortunately for the purposes of undraped "art" photography, television doesn't take too well to glamour girls. Popular shows like "Bonanza," "Ben Casey," "Dr. Kildare," "The Defenders" and "Route 66" do not employ any fully rounded San Quentin quail for that purpose on a regular basis. Donna Reed is antiseptic; Connie Stevens is a minor; Marjorie Lord is too lady-like; Dorothy Provine is a cutup, and Loretta Young wouldn't know what to do without a skirt to twirl.

You might even go so far as to say that television is antigirl.

There's a good reason why there are so few ladies suitable for calendar work on television. It boils down to this: Movies are largely dedicated to sex for teenagers, but television is devoted to the art of selling family products.

While an overendowed female might encourage dad and the boys to buy her particular brand of toothpaste or rolled oats, mother is merely antagonized by the sight of such competition.

And it's mother who buys the rolled oats. Oddly enough, television leaves room for sex symbols only in the commercials for ladies' products—shampoos, cosmetics and deodorants. And the women in these are so appallingly narcissistic, shallow, witless and phony that the only explanation for their behavior can be found among the books in the locked cabinets at the public library.

Observation of the week (by actor Richard Egan, former movie star now in a TV series being prepared for fall):

"Movies have fallen into the habit of making weaklings of their heroes who spend their time crying on their wives' shoulders. Neither men nor women are interested in seeing males playing that kind of role. In TV it is another matter. Television heroes are real men—take Marshal Dillon, Perry Mason, Ben Casey and the rest. They stand on their own two feet and behave like men should..."

### CROSSWORD PUZZLE

**ACROSS**

- Algonquian Indian
- Veranda
- Greek letter
- Fuss
- Habituate
- Chicken
- Shallow vessel
- More crippled
- Irritate
- Toll
- Gem from oyster
- Part of foot
- Small dog
- Comfort
- Toll
- Possessive
- Mountains of South America
- Course cotton
- Eight-part composition
- Peel
- Baker's product
- Once around track
- Enigma
- Crony (colloq.)
- Initiates
- One who carries
- Cheer
- Mohammedan name
- By oneself
- Electrified particle
- Spanish for "river"
- His present
- Exial
- Number
- Leads through
- Burmes demon

**DOWN**

- Weaken
- Girl's name
- Alliance
- Heap

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